

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

PAARA

Graphs

VOL. 26

NOV. 1983.

**palo alto
AMATEUR
RADIO ASSN.**



Paula Marie Tucker & George Nixon

PAARAGRAPHS is the official organ of
 the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association &
 the Menlo Park Civil Defence Radio Club.

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PAARA POLICIES

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year (payable in January), which membership includes a subscription to PAARAGRAPHS. Freebie distribution to those who indicate an interest in the Club, and as an inducement to their becoming members, and is subject to change with changing interests in the Club. Make payment to: PAARA, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Written contributions to the P.O. Box above, or to the Editor, 1140 Sherman Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025, tel. no. 854-6445. Deadline is two or three days after the Board of Directors meeting.

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Friday, November 4, 1983.

7:30pm

R E G U L A R M E E T I N G

In Keeping With The Season,



A MYSTERY TOPIC
by
A MYSTERY SPEAKER

Bring your pumpkin to the meeting and find out who or what Clif Keely, KA6JWA, scares up for speaker.

Meeting to be held at the Menlo Park Recreation Centre, Alma at Mielke, Menlo Park. Future meetings: December 2, January 6, 1984.

Mark your calendar for the PAARA Christmas Dinner on 12/12/83 at Rick's Swiss Chalet.

Circle the Date

November 4, 1983.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

at

Rick's Swiss Chalet
4085 El Camino Way, Palo Alto

on

Monday, 12th December, 1983.

Roast Cross Rib of Beef \$9.75

Breast of Chicken Cordon Bleu. \$9.75

(price includes tax and tip)

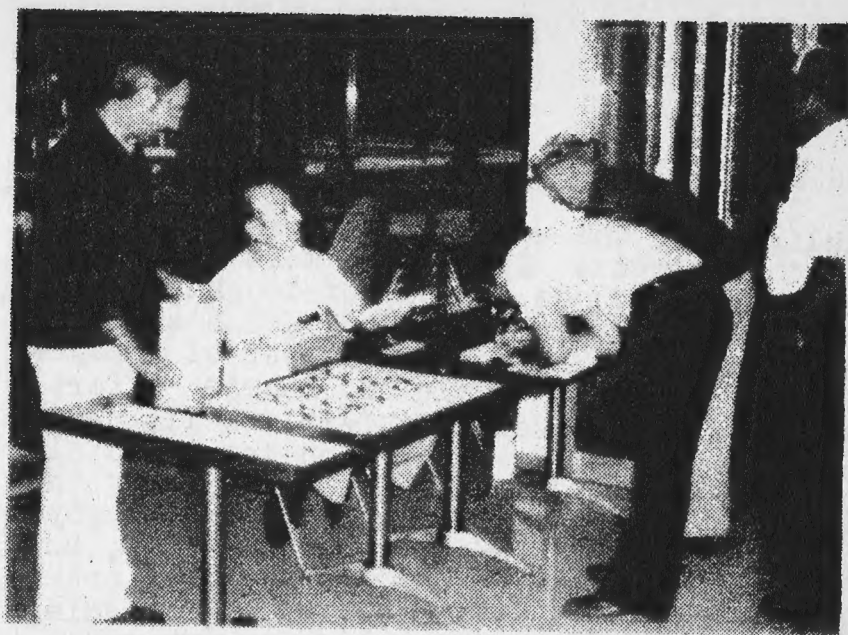
There will be a YL, XYL, and OM
gift exchange, so bring something
of about \$2.00 in value.

PHOTOGRAPHS - PAARA Auction, 10/8/83.

Upper: Rich Stiebel, W6APZ, seated, registers buyers, helped by Kevin Lapp, WA6FAC, left.

Lower: Bob Wheeler, K6SEM, our suctioneer, holds aloft a choice piece of gear, while Doug Chalmers, WA6DMK, spots bids.

Photos by PAARAGRAPHS photographer, Art Bolt-on, NM6K.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Highlight of the past month was the Annual Auction at Ampex. It was, by most standards, a huge success. We ran out of doughnuts just as everyone got sick of them. KCSEM's voice didn't fail us; a great number of people chipped in for a couple of hour's effort, which spread the work out fairly well; and a small core of half a dozen people worked all day without complaint, etc. Hopefully the financial results will be published nearby. Everyone can take a breather in November, but be sure to make it to the meeting and order your Christmas dinner; Jerry, W6ARA, is doing a fine job as Nominating Committee Chairman, so also plan to participate in selecting a new slate of officers for the coming year.

de Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV.

TREASURER'S REPORT ON AUCTION:

From the Auction, receipts were \$3,529.25 and payments to date \$2,440.24. This leaves a profit of \$1,089.01. The only outstanding item that I know of is a \$45.00 bill that our esteemed President has.

I wish to thank everyone who helped; there are too many to name, but, especially, I wish to thank Jack McEnnerney, W6LII, who did three-quarters of the accounting, and Jerry Starkey, WA6LIJ, who had the unromantic job of relief auctioneer.

CHANGE OF GUARD AT TREASURY.

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Your present Treasurer had not been thinking of retiring this year, however, at the Auction, a superbly-qualified candidate for the post identified himself.

Jack McEnnerney, W6LII, who volunteered to work at the Treasurer's table, turns out to be a former public accountant and controller (at Ampex?). Immediately after hearing that, I asked Jack if he would like to run for Treasurer for 1984. He agreed, and then, so that he could experience the worst first, Jack did most of the accounting during the Auction. I can assure you, Jack, that the rest of the Treasurer's job will seem anticlimactic. Keeping track of beefs and chickens for the Christmas Dinner is child's play.

Your present Treasurer feels that PAARA's finances are more complicated than most club's finances. For that reason, I think that the Treasurer should understand double-entry accounting and the need to leave an audit trail (for his own protection, as much as anything).

Best Wishes, Jack.

de George Nixon, GI30EN.

SK IS NOT FOR WAVING BYE-BYE!

by

Pres Hotz, K6WD

Since by definition, PAARA members are top notch operators, most of you need read no further. However ----, just in case a few of

us are getting a little sloppy, perhaps it'll do no harm to remind ourselves how SK should be used. It's not for waving bye-bye at the end of a QSO!

SK is used at the end of a QSO to signify the end of a contact or communication, and by long custom, it usually means that the sender is standing by for other callers. Generally, AR is sent after a call to a specific station or at the end of a transmission during a QSO. Many operators sign AR SK ____ de ____, or ____ de ____ AR SK; many use SK after their call sign, i.e. ____ de ____ SK.

But -----, here's a sampling off the air, showing how some cw operators end their QSO's. You can almost see them waving bye-bye as they reluctantly end their QSO. These should be sounded out for best effect.

- (1) 73 73 SK ____ de ____
- (2) 73 cul SK ____ de ____ SK
- (3) 73 ____ de ____ SK gn SK
- (4) 73 AR AR SK ____ de ____ SK
- (5) 73 cul AR ____ de ____ SK tu cu
- (6) 73 es cuagn 73 SK ____ de ____ SK SK
- (7) 73 es fb 1982 tks 73 ____ de ____ 73 AR
SK
- (8) 73 73 hpe cuagn soon 73 es don't drive
too fast 73 ____ de ____ K
- (9) 73 SK SK by by ____ de ____ tu hi (if on
SJB, he would say diddlee bump de bump)

Listen for a few minutes. I'm sure you can top these.

73 de Pres (K6WD) SK

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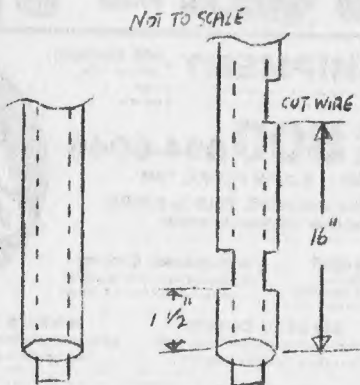


GOOD THINGS GET REDISCOVERED

by

Steve Stuntz, K6FS

August Ham Radio magazine carried a how to do it note (page 40) in Bill Orr's Ham Radio Techniques section, recapping a junkbox project that seems to have gotten several PAARA members interested. The subject is a 2-metre J-pole antenna made of ordinary TV twinlead plus a hunk of RG-58 and whatever it takes to couple to the output of a handheld. It turns out that the notion has been around a long time (at least five years ago, Ed Gribi, WB6 IZF, and a bunch of the Salinas Valley ARES gang were making them up by the handful for quick-response emergency communication). It is a quick and dirty version of the tried and true 2 metre J-pole half-wave fed at the base via a $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave matching stub, tapped at a point that matches 50-ohm coax. (For background, see the ARRL Handbook or the Antenna Handbook. Here's the dope:



Cut a length of ordinary TV twinlead (if you have got the high-priced foam-filled stuff, so much the better) to $55\frac{1}{2}$ inches (for you metricates, multiply everything by 2.54). At one end, cut and strip away a quarter inch of insulation from each wire, and short the two bared ends together, solder and tape or dope to insulate. Exactly 16 inches up from the shorted end, cut the wire on one side only, and clip out a piece one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch; be sure not to cut the other wire. You now have a 16 inch long quarter-wave shorted stud at the base of a 2-metre (39+ inches) half wave. To match this to 50 ohm coax (RG-58 or whatever), carefully strip away the insulation from both wires in the twinlead at a point $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches up from the shorted end; be careful not to cut the wires themselves. See the diagram, above. Prepare one end of a piece of RG-58 so that the centre conductor and shield braid are separated; be careful not to let them short. Wrap and solder the centre conductor to the long (uncut) side of the twinlead; wrap and solder the shield braid to the short (cut) wire of the twinlead..... To make the joint of coax and twinlead mechanically stable (it's going to get a lot of handling in normal use), wrap this joint with tape or heatshrink sleeving, and carry the wrapping several inches down the coax, being careful to bend the RG-58 so it lies along the bottom end of the twinlead, all nice and tidy. The actual length of the coax doesn't seem to be critical, it's probably a good idea to make it long enough so that you can lay or stand the handheld where it is convenient, and hang the antenna far enough away to keep it in the clear. The Ham Radio mag article suggests punching a small hole (a hot 6-penny nail works just right)

through the web of the twin-lead an inch or so from the free end, and putting a loop of string (not wire) through the hole, to hang the antenna vertically from whatever is handy - tree branch, curtain rod, nail in the wall, thumbtack or you name it. The other end of the RG-58 gets a BNC or other connector to mate with the one on the rig you'll use it with.

While the foregoing dimensions ($55\frac{1}{2}$ inches long overall, notch in one wire 16 inches from the shorted end of twinlead, RG-58 attached $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from shorted end of twinlead) seem to produce an antenna usable over the entire band, Bill Orr suggests experimenting (he hasn't had time to) to optimize the SWR and matching point. He pointed out (over Pacific Tel's kindly twinlead) that TV flat line, while holding a pretty consistent 300 ohm impedance these days, tends to vary in propagation velocity factor depending on the thickness and kind of insulation used. It seems that the usual cheap stuff, brown or white, has a factor of about 80%, and that the really heavy-duty stuff (double coated with foam filler) is about 70%. These differences could affect the resonant lengths. A little tinkering with a dip-meter can tell you some interesting things about resonant frequencies of the quarter-wave stub, which is shorted, of course. Start with the 16 inch length (or a tad longer), then trim a little at a time until you get near band-centre (or whatever). The effect of leaving the cutoff wire in the twinlead could stand some investigation too; removing it might have some effect on the resonant frequency or length of the half-wave radiating (uncut) side, and also on SWR and bandwidth.

Granted this little gadget, which in its simplest form can be rolled up and stuck in a pocket, is a compromise design, it seems to work. Like all such off-the-wall gimmicks, it raises some interesting theoretical questions. Here's a challenge for the guy with curiosity, patience, ingenuity and a couple of good instruments.

YUKON TIME

Info supplied by Ed Fairbanks, W6AIN.

What time is it in Alaska? After October 30, Yukon time!

A change that will put most of Alaska in the same time zone and end years of communication problems takes effect on Sunday, October 30.

Under the change:

- (1) Southeastern Alaska, including Juneau, will move from Pacific to Yukon time, one hour behind Seattle.
- (2) The central part of the state, including Anchorage and Fairbanks, will move to Yukon time.
- (3) Western Alaska, including Nome, will move to Yukon time.
- (4) The western end of the Aleutian chain, including the islands of Atka, Adak, Shemya and Attu, will move to the Alaska-Hawaii time zone. This will be the only part of Alaska not on Yukon time.

The current, four-zone, time divisions have created serious commercial barriers between the major cities of Alaska, said the Department of Transportation.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Five hundred years ago this month, on November 10, 1483, famous religious reformer Martin Luther was born at Eisleben, Germany.

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS: Your Editor was brought up to believe that success or failure in life depended largely on how profitably he spent his leisure time. Consequently, your Editor spent a lot of his leisure time studying subjects from radio to high finance, and sports from hiking to weight-lifting.

Serving PAARA is a profitable way for anyone to spend five or six hours a month. The challenge of working in a team; holding up one's own end of the team effort, cannot fail to benefit one. So, if the Nominating Committee approaches you, think about this, and, if the Nominating Committee does not approach you, why not phone Jerry Zobel, W6ARA, at 322-0063, and volunteer?

Being able to write an amusing and/or informative article is a useful job skill, and PAARA members have at hand the perfect vehicle in which to practice their writing skills; I refer, of course, to PAARAGRAPHS.

Your Editor was finishing this last page of PAARAGRAPHS when the news of the suicide bombings in Beirut came on the television (Sunday morning, 10/23), which has resulted in the deaths of approximately 140 U.S. Marines and 80 French troops. I am sure that all PAARA members will join me in expressing sympathy to the relatives of the dead.

de George Nixon, GI3OEN

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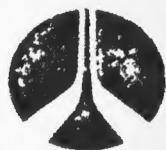
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